

HEADQUARTERS 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80 U.S. Army

5 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 inclusive. (Section I - Summary of daily operations and action).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Through Channels).

1. NARRATIVE OF EVENTS:

a. 1 April 1945: Battalion in position at GENSUNGEN (82.6-19.2), mission was reinforcing fires of 905th FA Bn. 1145 hours displaced to ELLENBURG (21.2-88.8), closed in area at 1230 hours. 1200 hours, mission changed to direct support 317th Infantry, 284 FA Bn reinforcing fires of the battalion and Company A, 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion attached for fire control. 1445 hours displaced to DEUTE (17.2-88.0) closing at 1600 hours. Mission of CT 317 advance to west of KASSEL and prevent withdrawal of enemy to west or from the west into KASSEL. In contact with the enemy. 4 missions fired.

b. 2 April 1945: No change in mission. 752 FA Bn reinforcing fires of battalion. 0630 hours displaced to KIRCHBAUNA (17.8-95.3) closing at 0715 hours. 1515 hours displaced to NORDSHAUSEN (18.2-99.6) closing at 1630 hours. Forty-six (46) prisoners taken during period. In contact with the enemy. 5 missions fired.

c. 3 April 1945: Mission of CT 317 to advance to north of KASSEL, protect left flank of Division and prevent escape of enemy from KASSEL to the North. 1515 hours displaced to KIRCHDITMOLD (19.9-05.3) closing at 1615 hours. 284th FA Bn relieved from reinforcing mission at 0900 hours. In contact with the enemy. 27 missions fired.

d. 4 April 1945: Mission of battalion, direct support of 317 Infantry. 1150 hours displaced to SANDERSHAUSEN (26.2-04.2) closing at 1315 hours. This displacement took the battalion from the northern outskirts of KASSEL to the eastern outskirts. At 1800 hours CT 317 was relieved of responsibility in this sector by elements of 69th Inf Division. In contact with enemy. 25 missions fired. KASSEL cleared of enemy.

e. 5 April 1945: No change in mission. 1030 hours marched by combat team to OSTER BEHRINGEN (96.0-73.0) closing in forward assembly area at 2300 hours. 752 FA Bn relieved of reinforcing mission at 0600 hours. In contact with enemy and fired 6 missions prior to movement.

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(After Action Report, continued)

f. 6-7 April 1945: No change in mission. 0925 hours, 6 April 45 displaced to REMSTADT (06.7-68.9) closing at 1215 hours. 241 FA Bn reinforcing fires of the battalion. In contact with enemy. 2 missions fired.

g. 8 April 1945: No change in mission. 0815 hours displaced to BUTLEBEN (10.9-71.2) closing at 0905 hours. 1715 hours displaced to FRIEMAR (14.2-68.7) closing at 1815 hours. In contact with enemy. 5 missions fired.

h. 9 April 1945: No change in mission. 1045 hours displaced to ERMSTEDT (21.1-67.8). In contact with enemy. 25 missions fired.

i. 10 April 1945: No change in mission. 1245 hours displaced to TIETHAL (25.2-74.0) closing at 1345 hours. 204 FA Bn reinforcing fires of battalion. In contact with enemy. 15 missions fired.

j. 11 April 1945: No change in mission. 1605 hours displaced to WEIMAR (51.9-69.1) closing at 2100 hours. In contact with enemy. 24 missions fired.

k. 12 April 1945: No change in mission. 0810 hours displaced to HOHLSTEDT (67.9-68.9) closing at 0900 hours. 1200 hours displaced to LUTZODA (69.0-69.1). 241 FA Bn and 204 FA Bn relieved of reinforcing mission at 0600 hours. 41 prisoners captured. In contact with the enemy. 1 mission fired.

l. 13 April 1945: No change in mission. 1045 hours displaced to WINZERLA (70.5-61.6) closed 1145 hours. No contact with enemy. No missions fired.

m. 14 April 1945: No change in mission. 1045 hours displaced to HERMSDORF (90.0-62.5) closing at 1300 hours. 1815 hours displaced to LANGENBURG (03.1-66.7) closing at 1900 hours. No contact with enemy. No missions fired.

n. 15-16 April 1945: Mission of battalion general support of Division. 1230 hours 15 April 45 displaced to LOBENHAIN (56.2-63.4) closing at 1515 hours. Company A, 81st Chemical Mortar battalion relieved from attached for fire control at 0600 hours. No contact with enemy. 3 missions fired.

o. 17-18 April 1945: Mission of battalion direct support of 317th Inf at 1330 hours 17 April 45. 1330 hours marched to assembly area at LANGENBURG (03.0-66.8) closed at 1600 hours. No contact with enemy. One mission fired.

p. 19 April 1945: No change in mission. 0830 hours marched to assembly area at WEIDENWASSERLOS (40.0-63.2) closed at 1830 hours. No contact with enemy. No missions fired.

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S E C R E T

BUCHENWALD →

(After Action Report, continued)

q. 20-27 April 1945: No change in mission. 1730 hours 20 April 45 marched to assembly area at NURNBERG (46.4-03.0) closing at 2300 hours. This period devoted to care and cleaning of equipment and materiel, rehabilitation of personnel. Retreat formations held daily. Movies and USO shows made available to personnel, also tours thru the city of NURNBERG. No contact with enemy. No missions fired.

r. 28 April 1945: Mission of battalion General Support. 1030 hours displaced to TRAUBLING (25.2-49.7) closing at 1730 hours. 752 FA Bn prepared to reinforce fires of the battalion upon the commitment of 317th Infantry. Company A, 94 Chemical Mortar Battalion attached for fire control. No contact with enemy. No missions fired.

s. 29-30 April 1945: No change in mission. 0700 hours displaced to GATTERING (54.5-22.1) closing at 0930 hours. In contact with enemy. 4 missions fired.

2. SUMMARY

a. Missions Fired:

TOT (Various Targets)	25
Counter-battery	3
Infantry	37
Machine Guns	1
Tanks	3
Interdiction	14
Harrassing	10
Preparation	30
Barrages	2
Registrations	17
Smoke	5

TOTAL MISSIONS 147

Average Number of rounds per mission	38.3 rds.
Percent of total missions in which fire for effect was fired by the battalion:	44.2 %
Percent of total missions fired in which Pozit fuze was used.	14.8 %
Percent of total missions fired in which delay fuze was used:	22.4 %
Percent of total missions in which time fuze was used:	6.1 %
Percent of total missions fired which were observed missions:	40.8 %

(After Action Report, continued)

b. SURVEY - Continued to use the 1/25,000 scale map to get survey control. Results have been excellent.

c. COMMUNICATIONS - During this period, wire has been the primary means of communication between battalion and batteries, while radio has served primarily with liaison and forward observers. During the rapid advance phases of the past period, there was generally little opportunity to lay any wire lines other than to the batteries.


d. AIR OP - a total of 22 missions were fired by Air OP during the period. Missions as follows:

Registration	13
Smoke	1
AA Gun	1
Infantry	7

e. AMMUNITION - Ammunition supply was adequate, and was expended as follows during the period:

	<u>M-2</u>	<u>M-3</u>
Shell HE Fuze M48	2941	435
Shell HE Fuze M54	1487	
Shell HE Fuze Pozit	221	
Shell Smoke, WP	497	42
Shell Smoke, Red	<u>15</u>	<u> </u>
Totals	5161	477

GRAND TOTAL (M-2 and M-3) 5638 rds.


 JOHN W. BOWDEN
 Major, FA,
 S-3

HEADQUARTERS 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
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5 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 inclusive. (Section II - Intelligence Operations).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Through Channels).

1. At the beginning of the period covered by this report the division was in contact with the enemy in the vicinity of KASSEL, GERMANY. The forces we were in contact with were mostly rear echelon troops with a number of different units represented. Anti-aircraft batteries and replacement battalions joined in the defense of the city. The most formidable force represented was the Eisinach Tank Bn, (NCO School for Tankers). These NCO's took the tanks which were manufactured in KASSEL and caused a great deal of trouble until eliminated by our own tanks and TD's and artillery.

2. After KASSEL was cleared by our forces, small pockets of resistance were mopped up in the vicinity. No divisional units were contacted. Units contacted were small CT's operating on local strongpoints without apparent coordination of a central higher headquarters. No artillery was contacted during this period.

3. During the balance of the period our forces advanced against a completely disorganized and routed enemy. He offered resistance in the larger towns and still composed his defensive units from small CT's formed from rear echelon troops, replacement pools, convalescents and stragglers. Some so-called Volksturm were encountered but they were vastly inferior to any type of troops we have encountered so far. During this period we cleared the towns of ERFURT, WEIMAR, JENA, GERA and moved to positions in vicinity of CHEMNITZ. Resistance in each of the towns mentioned was about the same from the same type of troops.

4. Since leaving CHEMNITZ and moving to BAMBERG And NURNBERG we have policed cities and have been out of contact with the enemy.

5. During the period the division liberated thousands of slave laborers and allied prisoners of war. The division captured 29, 615 German prisoners of war, bringing the total to 64, 995. Enemy dead buried 189. Total to date 2, 153. Enemy tanks destroyed 17. Total to date 205.

John W. Bussey
JOHN W. BUSSEY,
Captain, FA
S-2

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S E C R E T

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority 7 35017
By 68 NARA Date 6-14-94

HEADQUARTERS 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO #80 U.S. Army

5 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 inclusive. (Section III - Logistics, supply procedure, problems).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Through Channels).

1. Class I Supply: The delivery of rations has been excellent during the past month, however it has been found that not near as many emergency type rations are consumed when issued as there are "B". It was necessary for the entire Battalion to reduce their requested amounts. R.A. C. Kits, PX rations, were curtailed when the delivery of 10 in 1 became effective. The luxuries contained in the 10 in 1 rations are not sufficient for daily needs and it was with this thought in mind that Division Quartermaster issued a ten (1) day supply of R.A.C. Kits.
2. Class II Supply: In view of the difficulties facing the entire U.S. Armies in equipping millions of men, we as a small group cannot make any serious complaints. Shortages have been noted in Helmets, Liners and Trousers, wool od. The chief difficulties are within our own battalion and can be remedied by more careful paper work on the part of supply sergeants. Signal supplies have been excellent.
3. Class III Supply: Gasoline and oil have never been a source of complaint. Efficient handling by Division Quartermaster has been helpful to all.
4. Battalion Motors: During the month of April battalion motors have been taxed to the fullest. However, even with the fullest cooperation of Ordnance units, critical items are beginning to imperil the efficiency of important motor marches. Such items as wheel cylinders for GMC (rear), Motors GPW and GMC usually takes about 30 days. The repair of wheel cylinders has been unsatisfactory. Brake lining and clutch discs for GPW were critical throughout the month. Differentials for 3/4 ton Dodge have put two (2) vehicles on "dead line". One vehicle has been dead lined for two weeks. We have had to use cold tire patches instead of the hot tire patches because the supply has not been great enough to take care of the number of punctures. Valve cover gaskets are very critical because no substitutes can be used or replacements received. Tool replacement is critical. Certain types of socket wrenches and box end wrenches used daily by mechanics are being lost or broken and not being replaced. Tire guages are needed to carry on efficient and constant check ups.

William J. MacMullen
WILLIAM J. MacMULLEN
1st Lt., FA,
Acting S-4

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Authority 7 35017
By 68 SAKA Date 6-14-94

HEADQUARTERS 313TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
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SUBJECT: After Action Report for period 1 April 1945 to
30 April 1945 inclusive. (Section IV - Personnel
and Allied Administration).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Through
Channels).

TABLE NUMBER 1.

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY

(Figures taken from Morning Report up to
(Source of information)
and including 30 April 1945 for the period
1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 inclusive.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
2 Apr							2
4 Apr			1			1	3
7 Apr							2
11 Apr			1			1	
14 Apr							1
15 Apr							2
16 Apr							4
18 Apr							4
23 Apr							1
26 Apr							1
27 Apr							1
29 Apr							1
TOTAL			2			2	22

CANNON COMPANY, 317TH INFANTRY (atchd)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
4 Apr							1
13 Apr							1
19 Apr							2
26 Apr							2
28 Apr			1			1	
TOTAL			1			1	6

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S E C R E T

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 BY 68 NARA DUE 6-14-94

(After Action Report, continued)

TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PW's</u>
2 Apr	46
12 Apr	<u>41</u>
TOTAL	87

TABLE NUMBER 3.

REINFORCEMENTS RECEIVED

(Including Hospital Returnees)

317th Cannon Company included in figures

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
2 Apr	3
4 Apr	4
7 Apr	2
8 Apr	2
13 Apr	1
14 Apr	1
15 Apr	2
16 Apr	4
18 Apr	4
19 Apr	2
23 Apr	2
26 Apr	4
27 Apr	1
29 Apr	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	33

TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 inclusive. (317th Cannon Company included in figures).

No.

1	Silver Star Medal
1	Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)
3	Bronze Star Medal
2	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
4	Purple Heart Award

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S E C R E T

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 Authority 73501-
 By *CR* NARA Date 6-14-94

(After Action Report, continued)

2. Payment of Battalion: Due to tactical situation the battalion was not paid on last day of month and has not been paid this date.

M. R. Callaway
 M. R. CALLAWAY
 WOJG USA
 Personnel Officer.

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S E C R E T

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TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.
(Through Channels)

Concurrence in above sections as prepared by Staff Officers is made.

James McM. Shepherd
JAMES McM. SHEPHERD
Lt Col, FA,
Commanding

- 6 Incls.
Incl 1 - After action report (Section I)
Incl 2 - After action report (Section II)
Incl 3 - After action report (Section III)
Incl 4 - After action report (Section IV)
Incl 5 - After action report (Unit Journal)
Incl 6 - 1 Folder: Operations Maps, Overlays, etc.

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CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
SECRET
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE
18 Feb 1946

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master

new case